

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a message distribution center, a phone number only experience provided by:
  - 5           a database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers;
  - a database associating carriers with routing syntax; and
  - an inter-carrier messaging module to receive a short message addressed with only a MIN number, to perform a lookup in said
  - 10       database associating subscriber MIN numbers and in said database associating carriers with routing syntax, and to add routing syntax determined from said lookup to said MIN number.
2. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
  - 15       wherein:
    - said database associating subscriber MIN numbers with servicing carriers and said database associating carriers with routing syntax are in a common database.
3. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
  - 20       wherein:
    - said MIN is a phone number.
4. In a message distribution center according to claim 1,
  - 25       wherein:
    - said message distribution center forms a store and forward short messaging platform.

5. A method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

receiving an initial short message addressed to a MIN only;  
associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

5       formulating a new short message including a body of said initial short message and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and  
routing said new short message.

10       6. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said phone number only addressed short message is received at, and said new short message is routed from, a service bureau.

15       7. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said MIN is a phone number.

20       8. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 5, wherein:

said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

25       9. The method of providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 8, wherein:

said routable address is an e-mail address.

10. Apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber, comprising:

means for receiving an initial short message addressed to a MIN only;

5 means for associating a carrier providing service to said MIN;

means for formulating a new short message including a body of said initial short message and newly addressed to said MIN with a syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN; and

10 means for routing said new short message.

11. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

15 said phone number only addressed short message is received at, and said new short message is routed from, a service bureau.

12. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

20 said MIN is a phone number.

13. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 10, wherein:

25 said MIN with said added syntax associated with said carrier providing service to said MIN forms a routable address.

14. The apparatus for providing a phone number only experience to a subscriber according to claim 13, wherein:

30 said routable address is an e-mail address.